

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising the steps of:

spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel by use of at least two banding jets;

de-registering the crimped tow;

said spreading by use of at least two banding jets being upstream of said de-registering;

shaping the de-registered tow; and

distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow;

thereby forming an absorbent composite adapted for use in a disposable absorbent garment.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising two banding jets, one banding jet with a width, W_1 , and the other with a width, W_2 .

3. (original) The method of Claim 2 wherein $W_1 < W_2$.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising supplying compressed gas to the banding jets.

5. (original) The method of Claim 4 wherein the compressed gas having a pressure in the range of 0.5 to 5.0 psig.

6. (original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the compressed gas to one jet ranges from 2.5 to 3.0 psig.

7. (original) The method of Claim 5 wherein the compressed gas to one jet ranges from 3.0 to 3.5 psig.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

9. (original) The method of Claim 1 further comprising applying a liquid to the tow.

10. (currently amended) An apparatus for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising:

means for spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel by use of at least two banding jets;

means for de-registering the crimped tow, said means for spreading by use of at least two banding jets being upstream of said means for de-registering;

means for shaping the de-registered tow; and
means for distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow;
thereby forming a means for making an absorbent
composite adapted for use in a disposable absorbent garment.

11. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising two banding jets, one banding jet with a width, W_1 , and the other with a width, W_2 .

12. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein $W_1 < W_2$.

13. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising supplying compressed gas to the banding jets.

14. (original) The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the compressed gas having a pressure in the range of 0.5 to 5.0 psig.

15. (original) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the compressed gas to one jet ranges from 2.5 to 3.0 psig.

16. (original) The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the compressed gas to one jet ranges from 3.0 to 3.5 psig.

17. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising means for shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

18. (original) The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising means for applying a liquid to the tow.

19. (cancelled)

20. (cancelled)